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# Intermountain Reporter



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture  
  
Forest Service  
  
Intermountain Region  
  
Ogden, Utah  
  
JULY 1993

Published for Forest Service employees  
and retirees by the Public Affairs  
Office, Intermountain Region, Forest  
Service, U.S. Department of  
Agriculture—Federal Office Building,  
324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401

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content of the "Tree Planting" section



PRINTED ON RECYCLED/RECYCLABLE PAPER



Uinta National Forest

*"Someday, when I'm really old . . . maybe thirty . . . I'm going to  
come back and see how my tree has grown."*

—A Cambridge, Idaho, fourth grader



The tree planting story that unfolds on the following  
pages illustrates both the process and the teamwork . . .



# Tree Planting: A



Dixie National Forest

*Reforestation was still a crude science when this photo was taken in 1959. After years of trial and error, a successful formula was developed. This photo exemplifies the old practices. These people worked hard to plant trees using the current practices of the time.*

# Cooperative Effort

## DAHLGREEN'S LEGACY



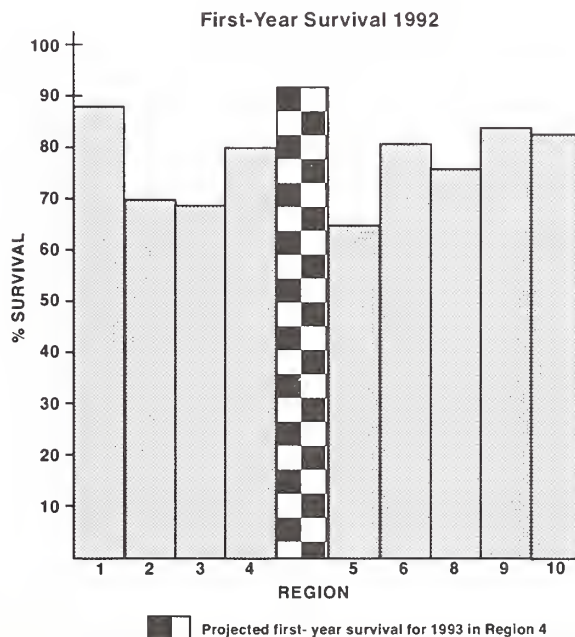
*"Al taught that young trees are living things that need a lot of tender loving care."*

—Norval Moritz, Payette National Forest, Council Ranger District

*Al Dalgreen (left) spent most of his career unraveling the mysteries behind successful reforestation. During the last 16 years of his career, from 1964 to 1980, he was the Regional Reforestation Specialist. Survival rates soared as Region 4 Forests began implementing his techniques.*

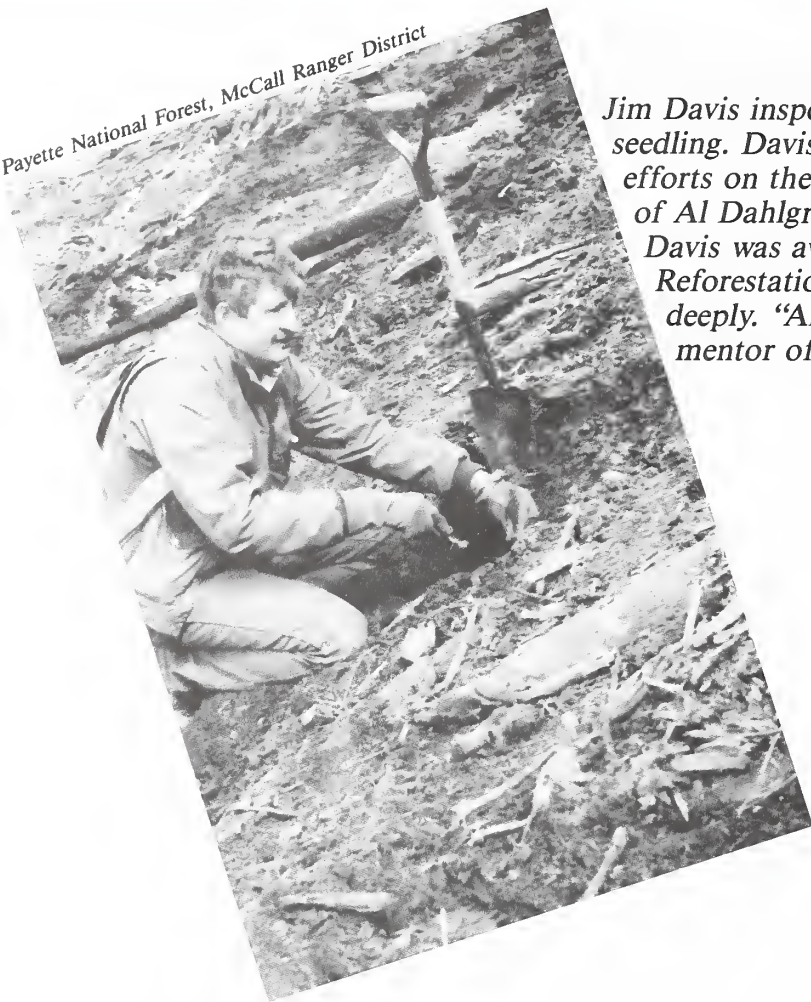
*Long before TQM, Al's philosophy was to do the job right the first time. Al died shortly after his retirement, but his techniques continue to set reforestation standards.*

*After having one of the lowest tree survival rates in the Nation, Region 4 took the lead in the 1980's. That was because, according to Regional Reforestation Specialist Jack Amundson, individual Forests were meeting the exacting reforestation standards. Due to drought and fire, the tree survival rate has declined in recent years but this year's soggy spring should boost rates appreciably.*



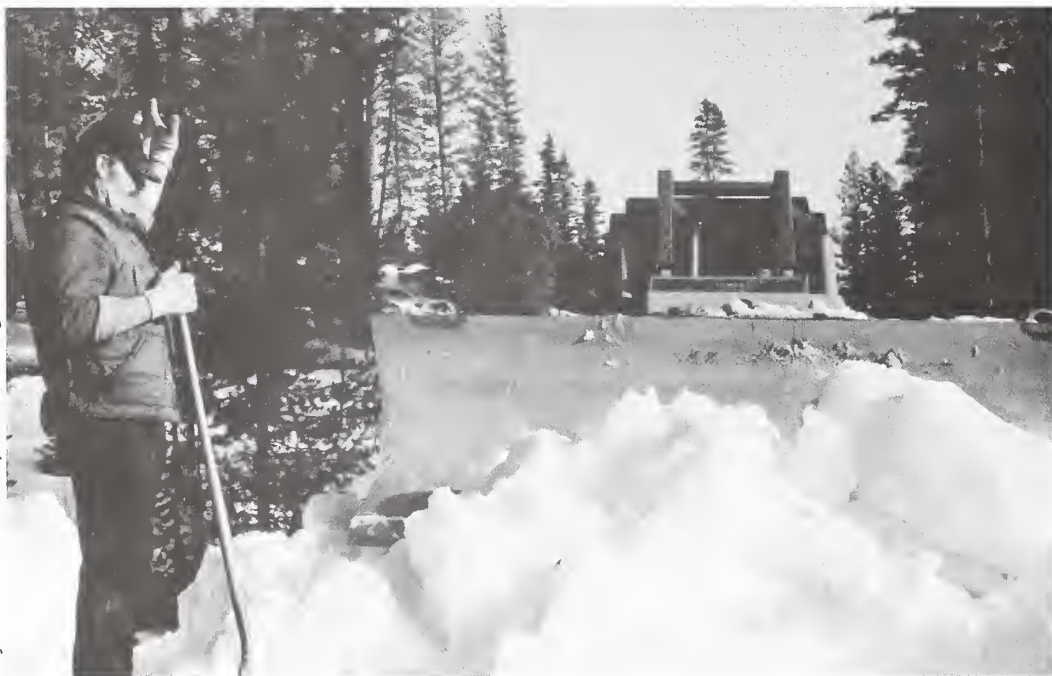


Payette National Forest, McCall Ranger District



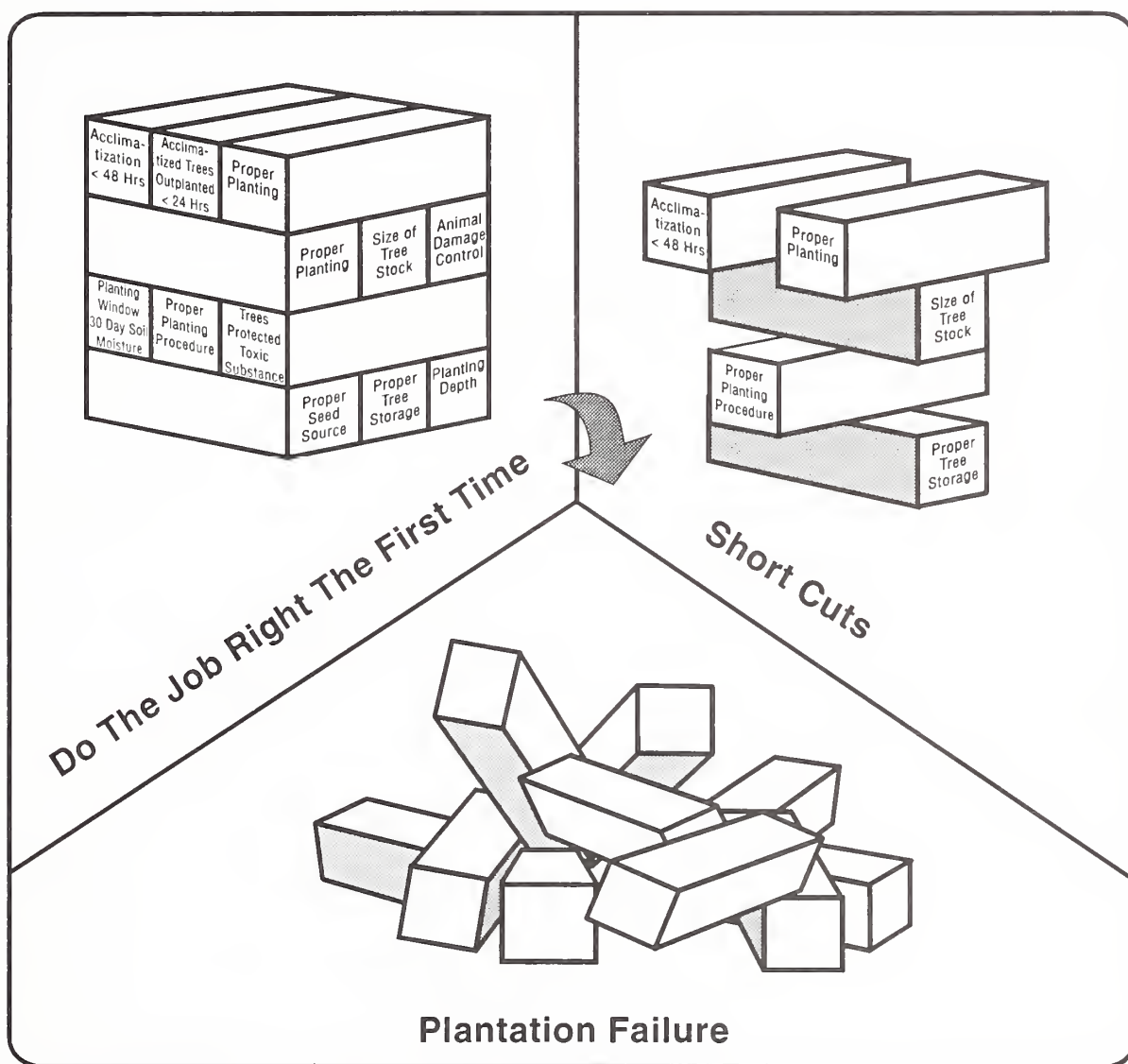
*Jim Davis inspects a newly planted seedling. Davis, who heads reforestation efforts on the McCall District, was one of Al Dahlgreen's students. In June, Davis was awarded the Al Dahlgreen Reforestation Award, which touched him deeply. "Al was the most profound mentor of my career," he said.*

Payette National Forest, Council Ranger District



*Norval Moritz directs tree cache construction. Moritz was the 1991 Dahlgreen Award recipient. "Anyone can grow trees on the coast," he said, "but Al could make trees grow anywhere, even in a drought."*

*All the following steps are essential for successful reforestation. By omitting one step, success can be in jeopardy . . . teamwork is crucial.*







*Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District*

*District workers sort ponderosa pine cones. Seed sources are carefully screened; the parent trees must be healthy, vigorous, and well-formed.*



*Lucky Peak Nursery, Boise*

*Tiny seedlings emerge at the Lucky Peak Nursery. They will spend 2 years there before being transplanted on a forest.*

## GETTING THINGS STARTED



*Lucky Peak Nursery, Boise*

*Richard Thatcher (upper left) shows Don Ferris, Carole Doramus, and Erika Barker how to remove bitterbrush from the soil beds. The plants will be used to replace wildlife browse destroyed by fire. The Lucky Peak Nursery produces 85 percent of Region 4's seedlings. Thatcher heads the operation, which is known for its efficiency.*





Lucky Peak Nursery, Boise

*A Nursery worker checks newly planted tree beds. Experience has shown that a tree seedling produced on a cold, wet site at 7,000 feet won't thrive if it's planted on a low, hot site. To alleviate that problem, the Nursery has developed a detailed tracking system. Two-year-old seedlings are sent back to their original elevation and site conditions.*

*A Nursery crew lifts and bunches 2-year-old lodgepole pine seedlings. The Nursery shipped 7.4 million trees this year.*



Lucky Peak Nursery, Boise

# GATHERING MOMENTUM



Lucky Peak Nursery, Boise

*During late winter, the odometer whirls on this Lucky Peak truck. The refrigerated trailer keeps the trees dormant until they are delivered to planting sites in Regions 3, 4, and 6.*



Sawtooth National Forest, Fairfield Ranger District

*Tree arrival is a District event. Forest employees and people from the St. Anthony work camp form a brigade to shuttle seedlings to a storage spot. Seedling boxes are organized carefully by species and planting elevation.*

*Plowing roads is frequently the first order of business, since tree caches are often located in snow-choked, higher elevations.*



Targhee National Forest, Dubois Ranger District



*Seedlings are placed in cold storage where they remain dormant until they are planted. Storage facilities vary widely. Innovators on the Soda Springs District fortify and insulate an old culvert for this purpose.*



*Caribou National Forest, Soda Springs Ranger District*

*Several operations are needed to construct igloo-like snow caches. Alan Jackson, Mark Whitney, Gene Sundberg, Vince Johnson, Dave Sabo, Linda Walton and Jim Hudson put the finishing touches on a cache. In some places, modern technology reigns and seedlings are kept in refrigerated tree coolers.*



*Salmon National Forest, North Fork Ranger District*





Targhee National Forest, Ashton Ranger District

*Contract crew members Becky Nedrow, Jay Christensen and Paul Christensen remove trees from a cache. Properly constructed, caches will keep trees dormant throughout a warm spring.*

*Forester Diana McGinn and Forestry Technician Paul Fullmer show contract crews how to prepare seedlings for planting.*

*Training is a critical part of the program. Contractors learn to cull small and defective trees, which boosts reforestation success.*



Dixie National Forest, Cedar City Ranger District

*Seedlings must go through a three-part process before they are planted. A contract crew worker first trims the roots to uniform, 12-inch lengths. The next worker gathers 50 seedlings and wraps them in moist burlap.*



*Targhee National Forest, Ashton Ranger District*



*Targhee National Forest, Ashton Ranger District*

*The tree bundles, called jelly rolls, are placed in baskets and taken to a temperature-controlled location where they will break dormancy. Depending on the species, the trees are given from 12 to 48 hours to adjust to the planting site's soil temperature.*





Boise National Forest

*A contract worker (far left) uses a McCloud to clear, or scalp, a planting site. Some Forest users may find fallen logs and scattered limbs unsightly, but young trees benefit from their presence. The logs hold moisture in the ground, provide shade and, sometimes, deter tree-nibbling animals. As the logs decay, they also become a source of nutrition for the small trees.*

## ***BREAKING NEW GROUND***





Targhee National Forest, Ashton Ranger District



Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District

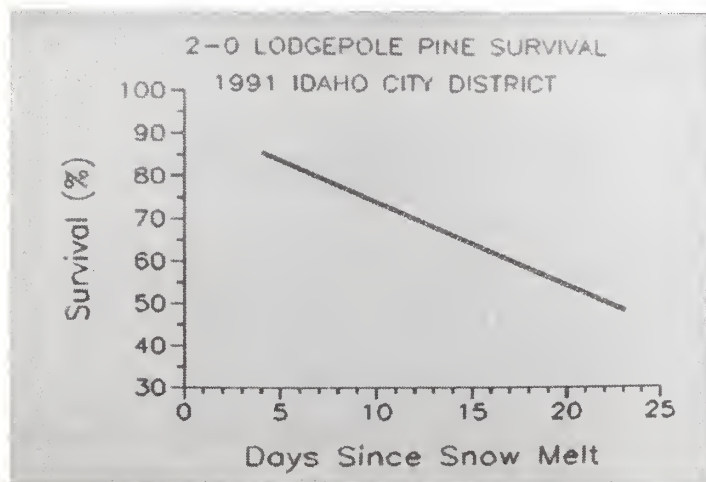


Dixie National Forest, Powell Ranger District

Most scalping is done by hand, but those who deal with dense pine grass sod are grateful for this mechanized method. Contractor Wendell Orr (upper left) uses a skidder to pull the mechanical scalping implement.

W. D. Robinson (above right) drills a planting hole with an auger. This can be filthy, back-breaking work. Veterans agree, however, that it beats the old shovel and planting bar methods.

Contract workers (left) use hazel hoes to clear a 24- by 24-inch planting site. If vegetation isn't completely removed, the young tree will have to compete for water, nutrients, and sunlight. This competition thwarts the tree's growth and lessens its chances for survival. (See graph)



Dixie National Forest, Powell Ranger District





Boise National Forest

*Large-scale wildfires have taken their toll on the reforestation program. Burn sites (above) must be planted immediately so the young trees won't have to compete with other vegetation.*

## TAKING ROOT

Uinta National Forest



*Meeting wildlife needs is one reforestation goal. Gene Ekenstam of the Tooele County Wildlife Federation prepares Hobble Creek for a big sagebrush planting. The "scrubs" will provide future browse or wildlife.*



*Dixie Silviculturist Brian Ferguson teaches planting inspection techniques. Years of experimentation and observation have honed modern-day reforestation techniques. Steps that are omitted or altered can significantly impact survival rates. As a result, tree planters and planting inspectors are thoroughly trained.*



*Dixie National Forest*



*Challis National Forest*



*Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District*

*Working at the edge of the snowline, tree planters take advantage of spring conditions. The more moisture a seedling receives, the greater its chance of survival.*

*Former Challis Supervisor Jack Bills (left) carries a bag of seedlings to the next augered hole. Tree planting is a hectic time and extra help is always welcome.*



*McCall Ranger Linda Fitch discusses planting crews with contractor Ray Mencinas.*

*Tree planting is labor intensive and must be completed in a short time frame, so Forests with larger programs contract the work.*

*Contractor pay is based upon the quantity and quality of their work.*

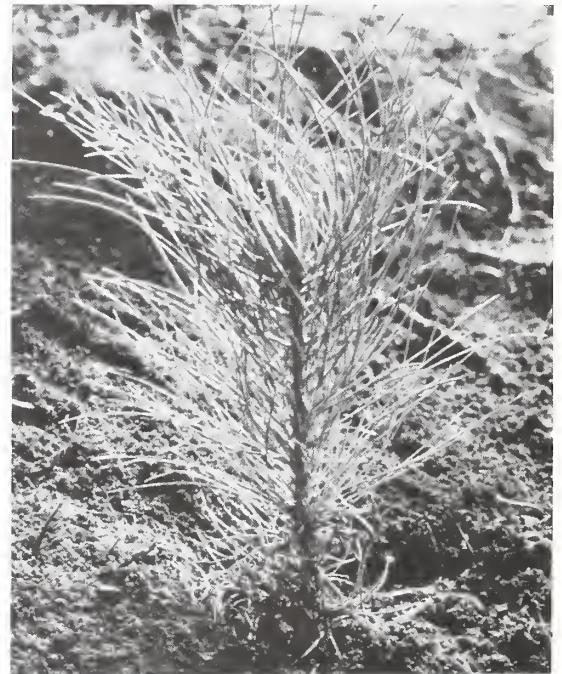


*Payette National Forest, McCall Ranger District*



*Payette National Forest, McCall Ranger District*

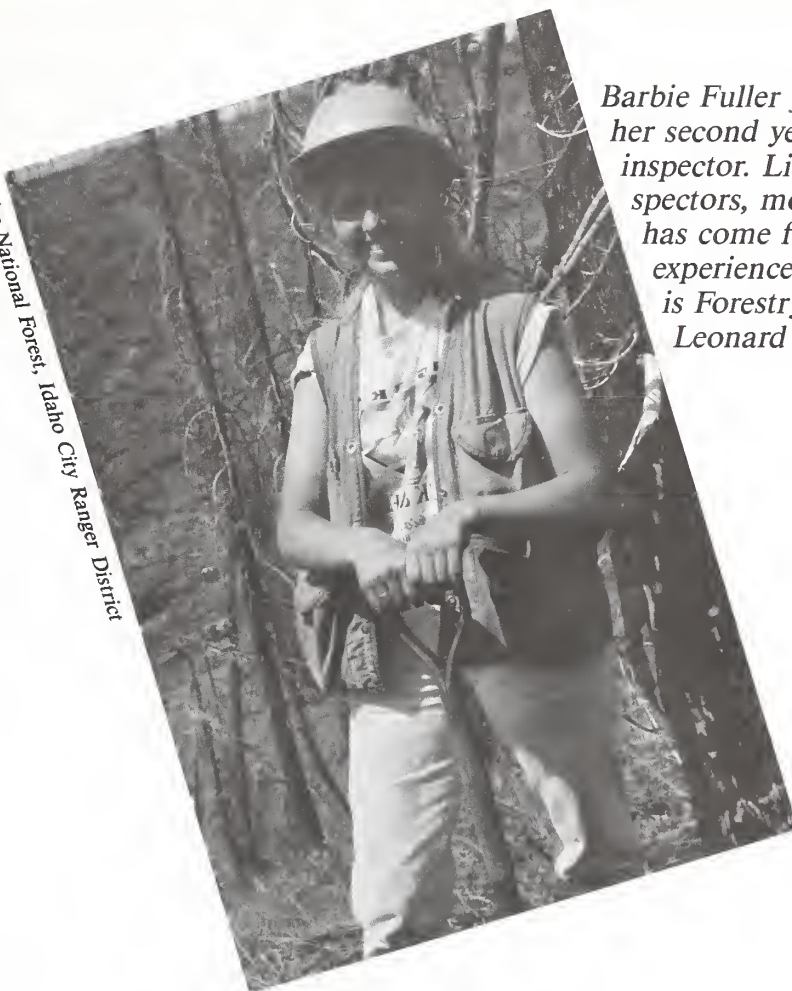
*Planting Inspector Sandi Holbrook checks a recently planted seedling to make sure its roots are covered with soil and that there are no underground air pockets. These are two common planting errors that impede growth or kill the tree. Inspectors also watch for "J" rooting—that's when tree roots are curled upward in the bottom of the hole. Optimal growth occurs when the roots can grow straight down.*



*Freshly planted seedlings, like this one, are often hard to spot from a distance. Casual viewers can easily see the young trees after a few growing seasons.*



Boise National Forest, Idaho City Ranger District



*Barbie Fuller just completed her second year as a planting inspector. Like most tree inspectors, most of her training has come from practical experience. Her mentor is Forestry Technician Leonard Roeber.*

*Contracting Officer Clint Randall (center) is kept on the run during the planting season. He serves as a liaison between the contract workers and the Districts. He is flanked by Tree Inspector Steve Cowger and Forestry Technician Norval Moritz.*



Payette National Forest, Council Ranger District



# WATCHING THEM GROW!



Bridger-Teton National Forest

*Getting a tree to grow in a rocky, harsh site is tricky business. Forestry Technician Clarence Wenzel measures a success story. Wenzel, who died shortly after his retirement last year, dedicated most of his professional life to fostering similar success stories.*



*"You can see the results. That's why I love my job."*

—O. K. Galloway, Forestry Technician,  
Council Ranger District, Payette National Forest



Salmon National Forest

*Nick Taylor checks a seedling for animal damage. Placing a vexar net around the tender branches of the young trees often encourages animals to find an easier snack.*



Fishlake National Forest, Beaver Ranger District

*Dandy Pollock evaluates growth in an Englemann spruce plantation.*



Payette National Forest, Council Ranger District

*This 15-year-old plantation is ready for a pre-commercial thinning. When the trees were smaller, there was plenty of sun, food, and water to go around. Now that they have grown, the trees are competing for these elements, and that slows their growth. Thinning will "release" the remaining trees, giving them a growth spurt.*





*Payette National Forest, Council Ranger District*

*Forestry Technician Leon Newman began his Forest Service work in 1974, when the above photo was taken. Nineteen years later, he stands beside the same tree (right).*



*Payette National Forest, Council Ranger District*





*"I've been here long enough that I can look around and say, 'Hey, I had a hand in that!' It's just like standing at a parade and watching the American flag go by—that's the feeling I get."*

*—Leon Newman, Forestry Technician, Council Ranger District*

## Regional Forester's Message

**B**y the time you read this message, you will know a great deal about our process of growing trees.

In the past, special issues of the "Reporter" have dealt with a current issue or celebrated an anniversary of a historical event. This issue is a break from that tradition, as it focuses on an elemental component of continued National Forests and on seldom recognized employees who sometimes dedicate their entire careers to planting processes that will produce healthy, vigorous stands of trees.

Healthy trees don't just happen; it has taken years of observation, experimentation and strategizing to develop planting processes that bring high success survival and growth ratios. But, even the best developed processes will be ineffectual unless the field workers are exacting in their execution of each

of the many steps involved. If just one step is overlooked, the success ratio may be in jeopardy.

Geography and the elements also affect success. Region 4 has some of the toughest site conditions in the Nation and the last 6 or 7 years of drought and forest fires have created a supply/demand problem. Reforestation needs for burned areas have exceeded our stock of prime seedlings. Occasionally, it has been necessary to use smaller, younger and less durable seedlings and that has temporarily decreased our tree planting survival. Prior to the recent drought and fire conditions, Region 4 was the statistical leader in successful tree planting and we will be again.

It's great to recognize this group of workers. They obviously are dedicated, taking pride in their work and



giving total attention to the smallest details. Results are carefully measured and evaluated to assure the job is being done according to expectations. I salute each of these employees.

## Looking Back . . . for Those Looking Ahead

**T**he Editor of the "Intermountain Reporter" gave me the option of, in her words, a "stuffy ol' retirement announcement", or a "... here's my advice to the younger folks" piece. I'm not too high on "stuffy ol' announcements," so I said I'd do the advice piece.

My career with the Forest Service has been extremely satisfying and rewarding. On July 31, I completed 33 1/2 years of service and I still wear green shorts. There has been more change in the outfit in the last 5 years than in the previous 25, and it's occurring faster than many of us older folks can keep up with. I don't think we have seen anything yet; it's going to change still more . . . and faster . . . . But, change is healthy as long as it is managed.

As individuals and as an organization, we have not been as ecologically and environmentally conscious as we should have been. We have made significant improvement but we still have a ways to go. I've laid out some "gawd awful" big clearcuts in my time, tolerated beat-out grazing allotments, and condoned overuse by recreationists. I'm not going to apologize, but I am going to admit that I made some mistakes, and I'd like to think I've learned a thing or two.

I am a great believer in our mission of "CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE." I couldn't have said it better myself. But, I am a bit bothered of late; I think we have an imbalance. It seems to me we are putting too much emphasis on the "serving people" part and not enough on "caring for the land." I think we are serving people, although in a different way than we were a few years ago, but it's being done at the expense of the land. The Forest Service is like the Estate Executor of a rather vague will with everyone wanting a piece of the action, and we are trying to satisfy them all. We seem to think that we can meet everyone's needs,



Ray Hall, who retired as our Director of Range and Watershed Management on July 31, has "gone fishin'."

all the time, and still take care of the resources; and that just "ain't" possible. To parrot Jim Nelson, "we still have dirt in the crick." That may be OK for today, or next week, or 20 years from now; but, at some point, if society wants to dance, society is going to have to pay the fiddler. If we aren't willing to take care of the soil and water resources, at the expense of people today, then the land won't take care of our grandkids, and theirs. We have to learn to say "NO."

During the last 3 or 4 years, I have been to numerous meetings attended by the younger folks in the outfit, and I have been extremely impressed with their enthusiasm, professionalism, and land ethic. So here is my advice . . . "HANG IN THERE" . . . and manage the change that is coming. To use another well-worn quote, "If not you, who; if not now, when???"

If I could start my career over, knowing what I now know, I'd still do it, and I guess that is about as good an endorsement as any job could have.

Ray



## Public Service Recognition

**A**n estimated 25,000 people gathered at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, on May 22, to celebrate Public Service Recognition Week. This is an annual event to express appreciation to federal, state and local public service workers for their contributions to Utah's economy and quality of life.

Events at the gathering included softball, volleyball, antique cars, a baby contest, live music, exhibits, food, a car raffle, helicopter rides, numerous games and contests and an awards ceremony. INT Secretary Oliver Quirante and Rita Kennedy, Michael Clonts, Kim Warner and Kevin Kadel of the Regional Office served on the planning committee.

*It takes three to keep this balloon from escaping—Ogden Mayor Glenn Mecham (in the striped shirt) who has just presented a Public Service Appreciation Award to Ogden District Ranger Randy Welch, and Randy's daughter.*



Photo by Dave Stalling, Intermountain Station.



## Awards

### REGIONAL OFFICE

**Cash**  
JAMES STONE, Audiovisual Production Specialist, PAO - \$500 for outstanding fire information assistance during the worst and the best of times.

### BOISE NATIONAL FOREST

**Cash**  
JAMES BALDWIN, Engineering Technician, Idaho City RD - For leading the District Health and Safety Committee with very little Forest direction. As the Coordinator, he identified problem areas and implemented concern programs. Newsletters were provided and excellent safety training has been arranged for the employees.

LAVENDA MCMURTREY, SCSEP Enrollee, Mt. Home RD - For performing the duties of the Information Receptionist for 8 weeks.

RICHARD JEFFS, Program Analyst, SO - For dedication and innovation that has been key to a successful effort to develop the GIS layers used to evaluate the loss of timber volume due to catastrophic insect and fire events on the Forest.

MARY FISH, Forestry Technician, Lowman RD - For devotion to the success of GIS implementation on the District.

### Quality Step Increase

SHARON PARIS, Land Management Planning Specialist, SO - For outstanding contributions as NEPA Specialist on the Forest. Her performance results in substantial improvement in Forestwide application of NEPA regulations and changes in the Forest Service NEPA policy.

### Spot

JANET BANNON, Computer Assistant, Cascade RD, and CAROL SHOBE, Computer Assistant, SO - For determining that the District's Data General disk was in need of repacking and having the initiative to begin the process, saving the District considerable down time during normal hours of operation.

### CARIBOU NATIONAL FOREST

**Cash**  
MARK L. JOHNSON, Montpelier District Ranger - \$750 for excellence in preparing lesson plans and instructing "Building High Performance Teams" (a train the trainers class) and other Regional and out-of-Region classes. (Regional Office award)

### DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST

**Out-Service**  
CARL GUILLETTE, Powell District Ranger, was named the Forest Service Outstanding Recreation Manager at the recent Governor's Conference on Recreation and Tourism. He was selected from a list of several nominees throughout Utah.

The award was given for his outstanding work in the Red Canyon area along Highway 12. His accomplishments include completion of the Red Canyon Visitor Center and the design and construction of an extensive trail system. He and his family have spent countless hours of their own time on weekends and evenings constructing trails for visitors to enjoy. Carl also coordinated a major volunteer effort with local third grade and high school students to assist in trail construction. Carl accepted the award on behalf of the members of his "excellent crew who implement the plans and complete the actual construction of the projects."

Ralph Rawlinson, Staff Specialist for Recreation in the Supervisor's Office, added that, "Carl is sensitive to folks locally and to their needs recreationally. He works hard to give folks an option of things to do in the county so visitors will stay longer. This in turn enhances the economy." Ralph also said that Carl emphasizes all aspects of trail enhancement for the hiker, the horseback rider, bicyclists and motorized vehicle users. Carl also secured special funding from the

Scenic Highway 12 money for a turnout, kiosk and toilet facilities adjacent to the tunnels in Red Canyon. He obtained grant monies from the State of Utah for motorized and non-motorized trail enhancement.

This is the first year the Travel Council has awarded this type of honor to governmental employees.

### HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

**Cash**  
KENT ELLETT, Range Conservationist, and DAVID KERN, Forestry Technician, Santa Rosa RD - \$100 each for initiation, development and completion of the District's fuelwood plan.

### MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST

**Cash**  
VARIAN S. ALLEN, Equipment Specialist (Automotive), SO - \$600 for excellence in preparing and teaching the "Building High Performance Teams" course. (Regional Office award)  
NORMA BUTLER, Accounting Technician, SO - For the extra effort in planning and coordinating the highway cleanup program for the Forest.

### SALMON NATIONAL FOREST

**Out-Service**  
Idaho Power Company presented the Forest with a Design Excellence Award because the new building Forest employees now occupy met or exceeded the Power Company's specifications for energy efficient design.

### WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST

**Cash**  
LISA G. JACKSON, Support Services Supervisor, Ogden RD - \$200 for exemplary, high quality performance and contributions to the Meetings Management and Facilitation Skills Workshops. (Regional Office award)  
MELISSA BLACKWELL, Kamas District Ranger - \$750 for excellence in preparing lesson plans and instructing "Building High Performance Teams (a train the trainers class) and other Regional and out-of-Region classes. (Regional Office award)

Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson was named the 1993 Fisherman of the Year at the Sport Fishing Institute's Annual Capitol Hill Awards Banquet celebrating National Fishing Week.

Helen Sevier, Chairman and CEO of B.A.S.S., Inc. and Sport Fishing Institute's Board Chairman, said, "... Chief Robertson guided the difficult transition of the Forest Service to a multiple-use stewardship agency. His insight into the needs of the resource community includes modifications in mission and procedures that are essential to the growth and success of the sport fishing industry."

## Roll Call

### REGIONAL OFFICE

**Reassignment**  
JOE KINSELLA, Regional Fire Operations Officer, to the Bridger-Teton NF

### BOISE NATIONAL FOREST

**Appointment**  
JAIME VAZQUEZ, Co-op Trainee, SO, to Accountant, SO

### Promotions in Place

TOMMY GONZALEZ, Forestry Technician, Mt. Home RD  
WILLIAM OLIVER, Forestry Technician, Lowman RD  
MELINDA DRAPER, Budget Analyst, SO  
CHRIS HOLBROOK, Resource Assistant, Emmett RD  
DANE LEE, Supervisory Forestry Technician, Dispatch  
RON ZIMMERMAN, Supervisory Contracting, SO

### Reassignment

TAMIE COOK, Forestry Technician, Sequoia NF, to Forestry Technician, Emmett RD

### Resignation

FRED HERNANDEZ, Computer Programmer, SO

### DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST

#### Temporary Promotions

STEVEN M. DODDS, Supervisory Land Surveyor, SO  
DONALD W. CARTER, Budget and Accounting Officer, SO, to Administrative Officer, SO  
RICHARD D. MADRIL, Range Conservationist, Teasdale RD

### Resignation

AUKESHA R. HENRY, Student Trainee (Information), Cedar City RD

### HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

#### Promotion in Place

MARTINA GAST, Natural Resource Specialist, Santa Rosa RD

### MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST

#### Promotion

KARLTON C. MOSS, Range Conservationist, Sanpete RD

### SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST

#### Appointment

STEVEN J. SMITH, Range Conservationist, Burley RD

### Promotions in Place

CRAIG ZIMMERMAN, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Burley RD  
GLADYS HAMILTON, Accounting Technician, SO  
SHERYL OLSON, Support Services Clerk, Fairfield RD  
SANDRA MARCH, Computer Programmer Analyst, SO  
RAYMOND NEIWERT, Forester, SNRA

### Retirement

CECIL ARMSTRONG, Supervisory Land Use Planner, SO  
JOHN ROBATCEK, Supervisory Forester, SO

### WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST

#### Reassignment

ROBERT CRUZ, Forester, Lassen NF, to Forester (Environmental Coordinator), Salt Lake RD

## Obituaries

BILL ELLISON, a retiree from the Engineering Staff in the Regional Office, died June 27 at the Northwestern Medical Center in Illinois.

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TO:

## Brutus “Fires Up” for Action

**T**he old saying, “They don’t make ‘em like they used to,” certainly applies to “Brutus,” a fully restored Model 56 Forest Service fire engine.

Brutus (officially Engine 7530), began a firefighting career in 1956 on the Carson Ranger District of the Toiyabe National Forest. For over 30 years, Brutus provided invaluable service to that District, nearby Forests, the Nevada Division of Forestry and the Nevada State Parks.

Three years ago, fire personnel at the Las Vegas Ranger District of the Toiyabe Forest found Brutus up on blocks, “retired,” at the Nevada State Park’s Valley of Fire.

The Las Vegas District acquired Brutus and transferred the fire engine back where it began its career more than 30 years ago.



*Brutus, the fire engine, is always a very popular parade entry. This time, it's the 1993 Helldorado Days Parade in Las Vegas, Nevada.*

Brutus proves that being “retired” does not mean “out of service.” Since August of 1991, the fully-restored and newly “fired up” Brutus has promoted fire prevention and Forest Service awareness as an entry in Nevada parades and as a frequent participant in special events.

Brutus certainly catches people’s attention. This past spring, Brutus was awarded First Place in the Antique Vehicles division of the 1993 Las Vegas Helldorado Days Parade. This

fall, Brutus will appear at Harrah’s Foundation National Automobile Museum in Reno in an exhibit commemorating Smokey Bear’s 50th Anniversary.

Congratulations Brutus! You are a piece of Forest Service history and a symbol of the Agency’s long tradition of public service.

Betty Stanko  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Toiyabe National Forest